



Draig Werdd

The Welsh Society in Ireland



Newsletter – Spring 2008

March was a very busy month for the society and for the country in general, with a succession of weekend events – St. David's Day followed in turn by the triple crown Ireland-Wales rugby weekend, the St. Patrick's day holiday in Ireland, and the Easter holiday weekend.

The month started with our St. David's day celebrations in Dublin, with another well-attended dinner at the Montclare Hotel, where we were honoured this year to welcome Dafydd Wigley as guest speaker, who entertained and enlightened us in equal measure. Go to <http://www.draigwerdd.org/Photo%20gallery.htm> to see some photos of the evening.

Many thanks to all who supported this event – without this support there would be no St. David's day celebrations amongst the Welsh community in Dublin, which would be highly regrettable. Indeed, it was the absence of any St. David's day celebrations in Dublin throughout the 1990s (following the demise of the old St. David's Society) that was one of the motivators for the establishment of Draig Werdd in 2000, giving us a new society for the new century, and hopefully bringing with it a new sense of national identity amongst the Welsh community in Ireland.

And a celebratory month came to a perfect conclusion with the achievement of another 6 Nations Grand Slam championship win for the Welsh rugby team. All Welsh people can rejoice in the reflected glory of this success, which gives an immense boost to Welsh confidence at home and abroad. Wouldn't it be great if we could carry this confidence into other areas of life, and show the rest of the world that Wales is more than a rugby team? This is something that each of us can do as individuals – if we don't do it, there's no-one else out there to do it on our behalf.

Enjoy the spring!

Cylchlythyr – Gwanwyn 2008

Yr oedd mis Mawrth yn un hynod o frysus i'r gymdeithas ac i'r wlad yn gyffredinol, gydag olyniaeth o achlysuron – cafodd Dydd Gwyl Dewi ei ddilyn gan benwythnos gêm rygbi'r Goron Driphlyg rhwng Cymru ac Iwerddon, Dydd Gwyl Padrig yn Iwerddon a phenwythnos Gwyl y Pasg.

Dechreuodd y mis gyda'r dathliadau areferol ar gyfer Dydd Gwyl Dewi, a chinio yng Ngwesty'r Montclare, lle cawsom y fraint i groesawu Dafydd Wigley fel siaradwr gwadd, a'n adlonnodd a'n hysbysodd yn gyfartal. Ewch i <http://www.draigwerdd.org/Lluniau.htm> i wylion nifer o luniau o'r noson.

Diolch o galon i bawb a gefnogodd yr achlysur hwn – heb y gefnogaeth hon ni fyddai unrhyw ddatliad ar gyfer Dydd Gwyl Dewi yn cymryd lle ymhlith y gymuned Gymreig yn Nulyn, rhywbeth a fyddai'n anffodus dros ben. Yn wir, yr oedd absenoldeb unrhyw fath o ddatliadau ar gyfer Dydd Gwyl Dewi yn Nulyn trwy'r 1990au (yn dilyn methiant yr hen Gymdeithas Dewi Sant) ac oedd yn hwb i sefydliad cymdeithas Draig Werdd yn 2000, rhywbeth a ddaeth â gymdeithas newydd gyda'r ganrif newydd, a sydd yn gobeithio rhoi teimlaid newydd o hunaniaeth genedlaethol ymhlith y gymuned Gymreig yn Iwerddon.

Daeth mis o ddathlu i ddiwedd glo perffaith gyda buddugoliaeth arall i dîm rygbi Cymru wrth ennill y Gamp Lawn ym Mhencampwriaeth y 6 Gwlad. Mae pob Cymro a Chymraes yn gallu llawenhau mewn gogoniant adlywerchedig y llwyddiant hwn, sy'n rhoi hwb enfawr i hyder y Cymry, cartref a thramor. Oni fyddai'n fendigedig pe basem yn gallu cario'r hyder hwn i mewn i agweddau eraill o fywyd, ac i ddangos i weddill y byd bod Cymru yn fwy na thîm rygbi? Mae hwn yn rhywbeth y gall pawb ohonom wneud fel unigolion – os na wnawn ninnau hwn, 'does unrhyw un arall sydd yn gallu ei wneud ar ein cyfer.

Mwynhewch y gwanwyn!

You may be interested in the following items of news from Wales and Ireland:
Mae'n bosib bydd yr eitemau dilynol o newyddion o Gymru ac Iwerddon o ddi-ddordeb i chwi:

- **[Hands off my Britain – Brown's warning to Assembly](#)**
14/12/2007 Gordon Brown flexed his political muscles towards the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament yesterday, telling them "This is devolution, not federalism".
- **[Referendum group begins series of meetings](#)**
18/12/2007 The convention that will decide whether Wales is ready for a referendum on a law-making parliament could be up and running by June, it emerged yesterday.
- **[NHS 'now four different systems'](#)**
02/01/2008 There are now four different NHS systems operating in the UK since devolution, according to health chiefs.
- **[Wales appoints older people champion](#)**
07/01/2008 Wales' growing number of over-60s can make an absolutely vital contribution to the nation's future prosperity, says the world's first ever Commissioner for Older People.
- **[Ffrae iaith yn 'rhannu ardal'](#)**
07/01/2008 Ffrae iaith yn corddi oherwydd y defnydd o'r Wyddeleg mewn ysgol uwchradd yn ne-orllewin Iwerddon.
- **[Wigley accepts Plaid peerage call](#)**
14/01/2008 Plaid Cymru's honorary president Dafydd Wigley has been put forward for the party's internal election for membership of the House of Lords.
- **[Papur dyddiol: 'Angen penderfynu'](#)**
14/01/2008 Arolwg yn galw am benderfyniad buan ynglŷn â'r galw am sefydlu papur Cymraeg dyddiol.
- **['No surety of Welsh newspaper success'](#)**
15/01/2008 A major report into the Welsh-language printed media has concluded there is no concrete evidence that a new daily newspaper would find an audience.
- **[Ymqais i achub iaith Guernsey](#)**
16/01/2008 Penodi swyddog iaith i hyrwyddo'r Guernésiais, gyda llai na 1,300 o drigolion yr ynys yn ei siarad.
- **[Ysgol: Ffrae iaith yn gwaethgu](#)**
19/01/2008 Mae deiseb o blaid dysgu pynciau drwy gyfrwng yr Wyddeleg yn cael ei lansio am fod rhai rhieni yn erbyn hyn mewn ysgol uwchradd yn ne-orllewin Iwerddon.
- **[Mine closure 'a time for celebration'](#)**
21/01/2008 The closure of Tower Colliery in Hirwaun, Britain's only mine owned by its workers, will be a day of celebration, not mourning, its chairman said today.
- **[Welsh honours system is proposed](#)**
30/01/2008 The assembly government is considering proposals to introduce an honours system based in Wales.
- **[Referendum talk no help says Plaid boss](#)**
31/01/2008 Plaid Cymru should concentrate on making the new devolution settlement work rather than talk about a referendum on a Welsh parliament "every five minutes", the party's leader at Westminster Elfyn Llwyd said yesterday.
- **[Hyrwyddo'r iaith dros y môr](#)**
31/01/2008 Menter Iaith newydd yn gobeithio rhoi mwy o gyfle i bobl Patagonia i siarad Cymraeg yn gymdeithasol.
- **[Stronger language body could see rights under law](#)**
05/02/2008 A Language Commission should be created with the power to take organisations to court if they discriminate against Welsh speakers, an independent report will recommend today.
- **[£600,000 ar gyfer papur Cymraeg](#)**
06/02/2008 Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cyhoeddi y bydd yn darparu £600,000 ychwanegol ar gyfer gwasanaethau newyddion Cymraeg.
- **['Labour must learn to speak for Wales'](#)**
18/02/2008 Labour has to lance the boil of its "anti-Welsh" attitude if it wants to win in rural Wales and form a majority Assembly administration in 2011, two of its senior figures have admitted.
- **[Banking on Scottish idea for St David's Day off](#)**
18/02/2008 A new law in Scotland could provide a model for St David's Day to be declared a holiday in Wales.
- **[Praised Gaelic newspaper collapses](#)**
20/02/2008 An Irish language newspaper held up as an example for future Welsh publications is on the verge of collapse.
- **[No anti-Welsh language mood, says Labour AM](#)**
21/02/2008 Blaming "phantom" opponents of the Welsh language for Labour's disappointing election results risks splitting the party, Valleys AM Huw Lewis has warned.
- **[Ask 'the people' on power, says Sir Emyr](#)**
21/02/2008 The convention examining whether Wales wants a referendum on a Scottish-style parliament needs to connect with ordinary people rather than political elites, the man who will chair it has said.
- **[Under half back full law-making powers](#)**
29/02/2008 Less than half of the Welsh public support full law-making powers for the Assembly, according to a new poll.
- **[Owain Glyndwr stamp unveiled](#)**
29/02/2008 Welsh rebel prince Owain Glyndwr features on a new set of stamps for the first time in more than 30 years celebrating the British monarchy.
- **[Cymry'n dathlu Dydd Gwyl Dewi](#)**
01/03/2008 Gyda Cherddoriaeth Gymraeg ar radio yn Nghalifornia, Mickey Mouse mewn gwisg Gymeig ym Mharis a negeseuon Cymraeg i deithwyr trên yn Llundain mae Cymry ym mhob cwr o'r byd wedi dechrau dathliadau Dydd Gŵyl Dewi.
- **[Crowds turn out to cheer St David's Day parade](#)**
03/03/2008 Hundreds of people lined the streets of Cardiff to greet parades of soldiers, flag-bearers, dancers and music celebrating national pride on Saturday.
- **[Boyzone to kick off 'Bryn-fest'](#)**
06/03/2008 Irish boy band Boyzone have announced they will open opera singer Bryn Terfel's annual music festival at Faenol near Caernarfon on August 22.
- **[Hedfan: Dim croeso i'r Wyddeleg](#)**
10/03/2008 Mae Aer Lingus wedi gollwng croeso Gwyddeleg i deithwyr awyren sydd ar fin glanio ym Maes Awyr Belffast.
- **[Building of the Senedd 'a success story'](#)**
12/03/2008 The construction of the Senedd is a Welsh success story, according to the Auditor General for Wales.
- **[Allegiance oaths are branded 'ridiculous'](#)**
12/03/2008 Suggestions that school-leavers should swear an oath to Queen and country to strengthen their sense of Britishness were last night rejected in Wales as "ridiculous".
- **[Race against time for early referendum](#)**
14/03/2008 Labour has been accused of working to ensure there is not enough time to secure a referendum on a Welsh Parliament before 2011.
- **[How coal destroyed Welsh lives](#)**
25/03/2008 - The end of deep mining in South Wales this year is seen as the end of a proud era, but a new book reveals how mining destroyed thousands of young lives over the years.
- **[Enwi Bardd Cenedlaethol Cymru](#)**
31/03/2008 Gillian Clarke, enw adnabyddus i ddisgyblion ac athrawon drwy Brydain, ydi Bardd Cenedlaethol newydd Cymru.

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